

1  
2 **BOARD BILL # 4      INTRODUCED BY ALDERMEN JENNIFER FLORIDA AND**  
3 **KENNETH ORTMANN**  
4

5 An ordinance establishing a “Parental Responsibility Code,” requiring parents to supervise their  
6 children who are under seventeen years of age; containing a penalty clause and an emergency clause.

7       **WHEREAS**, it has been shown that children who have parents who participate in their lives  
8 are less likely to commit criminal acts or become involved in the Juvenile Court system; and

9       **WHEREAS**, parental accountability has become the subject of legislation in other  
10 jurisdictions; and

11       **WHEREAS**, legislation that requires parents to be responsible for the supervision and  
12 control of their children results in increased parental accountability and is an appropriate way to  
13 address local increases in juvenile crime;

14 **THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

15 **SECTION ONE.** As used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

16 “Parent” shall mean any person who is the natural parent of a child under the age of seventeen,  
17 unless such person’s parental rights have been terminated by court order, and any person who has  
18 been given legal custody of a child under the age of seventeen either by an order of adoption or other  
19 order issue by a court of competent jurisdiction.

20 “Parental responsibilities” shall mean the right to the care, custody and control of a child(ren) under  
21 the age of seventeen (17) and the duty to provide such child(ren) with food, clothing, shelter,  
22 ordinary medical care, education and discipline.

23 **SECTION TWO.** A parent who has parental responsibilities for the care of a child(ren) under

April 29, 2005

Page 1 of 3

Board Bill # 4    Sponsor: Aldermen Florida and Ortmann

seventeen (17) years of age is charged with the control of such child(ren) and shall be required to exercise parental control and authority over such child(ren).

**SECTION THREE.** A parent shall be in violation of Section Two of this ordinance if a child of such parent is adjudicated delinquent by the juvenile court under Section 211.031 (3) RSMo. for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult or if such child is certified by the juvenile court to stand trial as an adult under the provisions of Section 211.071 RSMo. and is subsequently found guilty by a court of general jurisdiction.

**SECTION FOUR.** The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to individuals in charge of foster homes, child placing agencies or residential care facilities as defined in Section 210.481 RSMo..

**SECTION FIVE.** In a prosecution of a person for failing to supervise a child under Section Three of this ordinance, it is an affirmative defense that the person:

- (1) is the victim of the act that brings the child within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, or
- (2) reported the act to the appropriate authorities.

**SECTION SIX.** Upon a finding of guilt for the offense of failing to supervise a child under the provisions of Section Three herein, the offender shall be subject to a fine of not more than Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and be ordered to perform not less than Twenty (20) hours of community service. The fine and community service will be suspended if the person charged completes a parenting training class designated by the Office of Probation and Parole for the City of St. Louis.

For any subsequent violation, the person shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500 and ordered to perform not less than (30) hours of community service for each offense.

**SECTION SEVEN.** Emergency clause.

April 29, 2005

Page 2 of 3

Board Bill # 4 Sponsor: Aldermen Florida and Ortmann

1           This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, it is hereby  
2   declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the  
3   Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore shall become effective immediately upon its passage  
4   and approval by the mayor.

April 29, 2005

Page 3 of 3

Board Bill # 4    Sponsor: Aldermen Florida and Ortmann